

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7915

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12499

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BT

SUBJ: BHUTAN: INDIA REFUSES ENTRY PERMITS: COMMENTS
ON BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 3946

1. REFTTEL REPORTED THAT SINCE MID-1975 THE GOI
INCREASED ITS EFFORTS TO LIMIT BHUTAN'S ACCESS TO
FOREIGN (NON-INDIAN) TECHNICIANS THROUGH ITS CONTROL
OF THE REQUIRED "INNER LINE" TRANSIT PERMITS. ACCORDING
TO AN OFFICER OF THE ROYAL BHUTAN MISSION HERE, THE
GOI CONTINUES ITS ANTIPATHY TOWARDS FOREIGN TECHNI-
CIANS' WORKING IN BHUTAN. RECENTLY THE GOI DENIED
ICAO TECHNICIANS ENTRY PRMITS, WHICH THE BHUTANESE
EMBOFF INTERPRETS AS INDICATIVE OF A GOI POLICY
AGAINST BHUTAN'S DEVELOPING ITS AVIATION FACILITIES.
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THE GOI, HE SAID, DOES NOT WANT A LOT OF PLANES

FLYING AROUND IN WHAT IT REGARDS AS AN AREA IMPORTANT TO ITS SECURITY.

2. OUR BHUTANESE SOURCE SAID THAT IN JULY THE GOI DENIED SEVERAL BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPONSORED SCHOOL TEACHERS ENTRY PERMITS. THE BRITISH HAVE COMPLAINED TO THE GOI, BUT THE BHUTANESE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE GOI WILL REVERSE ITSELF.

3. THE BHUTANESE ATTITUDE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF PHILOSOPHIC RESIGNATION TO THE FACT THAT IT IS AT THE GOI'S MERCY ON THIS ISSUE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THAT THE GOI POLICY COULD UNDERMINE THE UNDP'S ENTIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BHUTAN.

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT BANGLADESH ACCUSATIONS OF INDIAN-AIDED INCURSIONS, THE BHUTANESE EMBOFF (WHO WAS THE KING'S CONTROL OFFICER WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH INDIA ON HIS WAY TO COLOMBO) SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE INDIANS WERE INDEED HARASSING THE BDG. HE DESCRIBED INDIA'S NEIGHBORS AS LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF A GIANT WHO COULD HURT THEM WHEN IT STIRRED TO SCRATCH ITSELF. AT NO TIME DID HE ALLUDE TO INDIA'S "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY" PRAISED BY HIS KING AT THE COLOMBO NAC.
SAXBE

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